

☐ UNCLASSIFIED☐ INTERNAL
USE ONLY☐ CONFIDENTIAL☒ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

HR70-14

Arming of Air America Flight Crews

FROM:

DD/S ☐

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

20 January 1966

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

Assistant Deputy Director
for Support

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APPROVED FOR
RELEASE ☐ DATE:
14-Sep-2009FORM
3-62

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USE PREVIOUS
EDITIONS☒ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ INTERNAL
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20 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Warfield

SUBJECT : Arming of Air America Flight Crews

1. In accordance with your request of 14 January, I have interviewed individuals in FE, [] and [] concerning the arguments for and against establishing a policy permitting the arming of Air America flight crews. There are marked differences of opinion. [] strongly suggested that for the present we address ourselves to the South Vietnam situation and further that the views of the Field should be requested as being most significant to discussions leading to establishment of a policy. The recommendations of [] personnel and the Air America Base Manager at Saigon as well as [] have been requested this date by the attached cable.

2. Current Air America policy prohibits the arming of flight crews in South Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

3. The arguments against arming flight crews are based principally on: (a) anticipated difficulty in controlling possession and use of weapons, and (b) the probability that de facto any weapon would be insufficient to afford real defensive capability against enemy weapons.

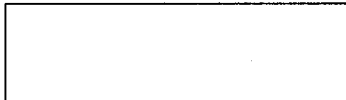
4. [] a specialist in escape and survival, believes strongly that flight crews in South Vietnam should be equipped with light weight automatic weapons, for example grease guns. In his opinion, the weapons provide a defensive capability to keep an attacking force from the aircraft and might permit a crew to escape from an aircraft. Mr. [] would recommend that [] supply and maintain the weapons, CFE, through Saigon Station to Air America. Further he would recommend issuing the weapons before each flight and have them mounted in holsters on the bulkhead of the aircraft cabin. [] stated that a crew member could be trained in the use of a grease gun in thirty minutes.

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5. The DDP Air Officer suggested that Embassy policy at Saigon should be made known to Headquarters and considered in the formulation of policy.

6. I will keep you informed of developments in this matter.



DD/S

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14 JAN 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. []

SUBJECT : Carrying of Arms by Air America Pilots

1. The shooting of two Air America pilots on 14 January by the Viet Cong was reported to the Director who inquired as to our policy on commercial pilots carrying weapons. Specifically, he felt that in this case the pilot and co-pilot might have been able to defend themselves.

2. Please look into this and determine what the policy is for various areas of Southeast Asia and what are the arguments for and against establishing a policy permitting pilots to arm themselves. I suggest that you will want to explore this with FE, [] and the DD/P Air Officer. I would like to have this information by 20 January.

SIGNED Alan M. Warfield

Alan M. Warfield
Assistant Deputy Director
for Support

cc: []

Mr. Doole

A/DD/S/AMW [] (14 Jan 66)

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee

1 - DD/S Subject []

1 - DD/S Chrono

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